

CALTRANS COMMUTER ALERT

Date: Thursday, January 20, 2005

District: 7– Los Angeles/Ventura Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND LANE OPENS ON HIGHWAY 33

OJAI – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has opened a second lane on Highway 33 from Old Creek Road to Creek Road, providing one lane in each direction.

Caltrans crews have been working around the clock to repair roads damaged in the recent storm. Last night, crews cleaned and paved the shoulder to create the second lane. A 25-MPH Speed Limit has been posted. The additional lane will help to ease travel through the area until the road is permanently repaired.

Total repair of the road could take two to four months. This will include replacement of the roadway from the bottom up. Footings must be built in the San Antonio Creek. The slope, which is approximately 1000 feet in width and 125 feet high, must be removed and replaced for stabilization. After this is completed, the roadway can then be replaced. Before work can begin, environmental clearances to work in the creek must be received from the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers and the Department of Fish and Game.

Highway 33 remains closed from Fairview Road, four miles north of Ojai, to Lockwood Valley road. Reopening this stretch is the next priority. It is estimated to reopen within a week.

Route 150 remains closed from the Santa Barbara County line to Santa Ana Road due to mudslides and road washouts. Estimated date of reopening the road to the Santa Barbara County line is Tuesday, January 25. A bridge is washed out on Route 150 in Santa Barbara County, close to the Ventura County line. Reconstruction of the bridge will begin in one month. Caltrans is working to reopen Route 192 as a detour to Route 150. Route 192 is estimated to reopen by mid next week.

Route 150 from the Summit to Route 126 is closed due to washouts and slides. Estimated date of reopening is April 2005.

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